

REMARKS

Changes to the Claims:

Claims 9-10 are original, claims 1-2, 11, and 16-31 are canceled, claims 3-8 and 12-15 are currently amended, and new claims 32-39 have been added. Claims 3-10, 12-15, and 32-39 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.

Patentability of the Claims:

Independent claims 6 and 35 and their dependent claims 32-34 and 36-39, respectively, recite patentable limitations originally recited in allowed claim 6 of the parent application (Application Serial No. 09/426,684) which claim was renumbered as claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,646,997 issuing from the parent application. Independent claim 7 and its dependent claims 3-5, 8-10, and 12-15 recite patentable limitations originally recited in allowed claim 7 of the parent application, which claim was renumbered as claim 2 in the issued patent. Accordingly, claims 3-10, 12-15, and 32-39 of the present application are patentable over the prior art for the same reasons as claims 6 and 7 of the parent application.

Conclusion:

Based on the foregoing, Applicants contend that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that the instant case be passed to issue. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to give the below-listed attorney a call. If additional fees are required, please debit our Deposit Account No. 04-1414.

Respectfully submitted,

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